

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 30-36 are withdrawn and claims 1-29 remain unchanged.

The Examiner indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-29, drawn to a flotation process; and

Group II: Claims 30-36, drawn to a conditioning process.

Applicant is required to elect a single invention to be examined. By this Amendment, Applicant respectfully elects, without traverse, Group I (claims 1-29), as identified by the Examiner.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected invention and other aspects of the application in one or more divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

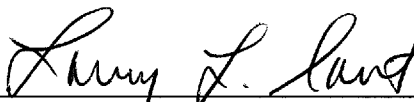
In view of the foregoing, examination of the current application on the merits is respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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